

Planetary Friends and Enemies

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In chart delineation, many factors need to be examined, assessed, and combined, but the essence of the map always lies with the planets. Without a sound understanding of their natures and qualities – naked of sign or house – chart judgement founders. It is not simply a matter of learning the rulerships of the planets, or what sign or signs they govern, but of knowing and understanding their intrinsic characters. While it is not the purpose of this paper to enter into such an explanation ¹, the categorising of the planets as “friends” and “enemies” provides an illustration of those natures and qualities. It also serves as a demonstration of how the planets relate one to another.

Lilly provides the following list ².

	Friends	Enemies
Saturn	Jupiter, Sun, Mercury *	Mars, Venus
Jupiter	Saturn, Sun, Venus, Mercury, Moon	Mars
Mars	Venus	Saturn, Jupiter, Sun, Mercury, Moon
Sun	Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Mercury, Moon	Saturn
Venus	Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Mercury, Moon	Saturn
Mercury	Saturn, Jupiter, Venus **	Sun, Mars, Moon
Moon	Jupiter, Sun, Venus, Mercury	Saturn, Mars

* On page 637, Lilly notes the Moon as a friend to Saturn, but has omitted Mercury. Coley's

¹ These matters are dealt with in the Foundation Level course at www.sue-ward.co.uk .

² William Lilly, *Christian Astrology*. London 1647. Pages 57 – 83 under each of the planets

table shows the Moon as a friend to Saturn, too.

** Coley includes the Sun and Moon as friends of Mercury.

Coley³ provides an explanation, thus:

...but observe also that Friends by reason of agreement in Nature, Quality, Substance and Power, are Mars and Sun, Jupiter and Venus, Venus and Moon. Enemies by opposition of Houses, are Saturn and the Sun, Saturn and the Moon, Jupiter and Mercury, Mars and Venus. Enemies by exaltation are, Saturn and Sun, Jupiter and Mars, Mercury and Venus.

Mars and the Sun are hot, dry and masculine, so they are friends; Jupiter and Venus are natural benefics, so they are friends, as are Venus and the Moon because they are both cold, moist, feminine and nocturnal planets.

Saturn and the Sun are enemies because their signs of Aquarius and Leo are opposite to each other. The same applies to the other named pairs of planets: Saturn and Moon, Jupiter and Mercury, and Mars and Venus. Each planet has its detriment in the house opposite to its own.

Enemies by exaltation are Saturn and the Sun: Saturn has its exaltation in Libra where the Sun has its fall, Sun has its exaltation in Aries where Saturn has its fall. Jupiter has its exaltation in Cancer where Mars has its fall, and vice versa. Finally, Mercury has its exaltation in Virgo where Venus has its fall and vice versa.

³ Henry Coley, *Key to the Whole Art of Astrology*, London, 1676. Page 90

	Rulership	Detriment	Exaltation	Fall	Nature
Saturn	Capricorn Aquarius	Cancer Leo	Libra	Aries	Masculine Cold & dry
Jupiter	Sagittarius Pisces	Gemini Virgo	Cancer	Capricorn	Masculine Hot & moist
Mars	Aries Scorpio	Libra Taurus	Capricorn	Cancer	Masculine Hot & dry
Sun	Leo	Aquarius	Aries	Libra	Masculine Hot & dry
Venus	Taurus Libra	Scorpio Aries	Pisces	Virgo	Feminine Cold & moist
Mercury	Gemini Virgo	Sagittarius Pisces	Virgo	Pisces	Common Convertible
Moon	Cancer	Capricorn	Taurus	Scorpio	Feminine Cold & moist

There are problems with this: the signs of Mars and Venus are opposite to each other, yet Venus is the only friend of Mars, and Mars is a friend to Venus. Similarly, Saturn and the Moon, according to Coley should be enemies since their signs are in opposition, but he shows the Moon as a friend to Saturn.⁴

It is interesting to note that in Lilly's list the Sun is helpful to Saturn, but this latter is unhelpful to the Sun⁵. This is not a mistake; Coley repeats it. In the

⁴ This does not appear to be a typographical error, because he mentions it again by way of explanation beneath the table.

⁵ Lilly, page 178 ff

ancient method, as reported by Ptolemy⁶, Saturn was given to the day to alleviate its destructively cold nature. Therefore, the Sun would be a friend, or helpful to it through its heating effect. On the other hand, Saturn's chilling of the Sun would be detrimental. The Sun is the supreme Lord of the Heavens and cannot be outshone, the consequences of combustion testify to this. However, caution is required in its application, because much would depend on whether the chart was diurnal or nocturnal. Saturn would be able to exert greater influence over the Sun at night.

In the third book of *Christian Astrology* on nativities, Lilly applies this system, unsurprisingly, in 11th house matters concerning friends. The chapter is headed *Whether there may be Concord or Unity betwixt the two*. where he discusses planets in the 1st house, or ruling the 1st house, in the nativities of the friends. If they have the same planet in the 1st house, or ruling the 1st house, it argues "*the same manners and the same affection*", but if they are different planets, then we need to see if those planets are friends or enemies. "*If they be friends, they argue Love and Friendship; if enemies, Hatred, no consent, a continuall alienation of affection one from another.*"

He goes on to explain how the planets are designated friends or enemies. Venus is more of an enemy to Saturn than is Mars because even though both Saturn and Venus have cold natures they "*consent*".⁷ Yet *she dissents in manners, sith Saturn is the Parent of sadnesse, and Venus the Mother of mirth*. The planets' natural actions are overruling any other agreement they might have.

Lilly's expression of the relationship between Venus and Mars is very helpful. He explains that although Venus is the only friend that Mars has, she "*loves him not*" because of their opposite natures: Venus is cold and moist and Mars is hot and dry. However, *she diminisheth his evill influence by good words and her meeknesse*; Here we see that the natural actions of Venus as a benefic persuader overrides their natural antipathy somewhat.

⁶ Claudius Ptolemy, *Tetrabiblos*, Loeb, page 43

⁷ What he means here is that Venus rules Libra and Saturn is exalted in Libra, so Venus is disposing Saturn. The word "consent" is an unusual expression of Venus's dispositorship. You can read more about this in "The Correct Use of Reception in Traditional Astrology" at www.sue-ward.co.uk.

	Friends	Enemies
Saturn	Jupiter, Sun, Moon *	Venus, Mars
Jupiter	Saturn, Sun, Venus, Mercury, Moon	Mars
Mars	Venus	Saturn, Jupiter, Sun, Mercury, Moon
Sun **	Jupiter, Venus	Saturn, Mars, Mercury, Moon
Venus	Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Mercury, Moon	Saturn
Mercury **	Saturn, Jupiter, Venus	Mars, Sun, Moon
Moon **	Saturn, Jupiter, Venus	Mars, Sun, Mercury

* Mercury is omitted.

** Differs from the former table.

Lilly also includes the Lunar Nodes here, making the North Node friends with Jupiter and Venus and the South friends with Saturn and Mars. This accords with the natures of the nodes, which he says are those of their friends.

Therefore, while the second table differs from the first, the second is more consistent. We should note that this consistency is still not applied to the relationship between the Sun and Saturn: the Sun remains a friend to Saturn, while Saturn is an enemy to the Sun. We find a modern explanation of it: *as regards the Sun-Saturn objection what Ptolemy probably meant was Saturn's application in beneficent aspect to the solar orb, for no one can deny that a sextile or trine from Saturn to the Sun mightily strengthens the latter and agrees with its purpose.*⁸ The reference to Ptolemy refers to the assertion that the system derives from him, but it is an unspecified reference. However, it is unlikely

⁸ Nicholas de Vore, *Encyclopedia of Astrology*, Littlefield, Adams, 1980.

that this explanation has any foundation when it is compared to those given by both Lilly and Coley.

These planetary relationships at first appear to have little to do with practical astrology, but as with the other levels of quality and nature, all that is required is knowledge of the planet's essences to be able to work out the reasons for their being ordered in such a way. Hence, it is not relevant that the lists from Lilly and Coley differ, since they have arrived at a similar destination having travelled the same route.

Such straightforward symbolism is easy to apply and as an example, we will consider a nativity having a Sagittarian Ascendant⁹. (For simplicity we will not account for planets in the Ascendant, but the same principles apply). According to Lilly, the native's friends might have a Sagittarian Ascendant also, or a Pisces Ascendant since Jupiter rules both. If this is not the case then the native's friends should have an Ascendant ruler that is friendly to Jupiter. Since Jupiter has only Mars as his enemy, we might find that the native has friends with all signs rising except Aries and Scorpio.

Lilly says that *likeness is the Mother of affection*, so friendship is found when the same sign rises on the Ascendant; when the same planet rules the rising sign of each; when the same planets are in the Ascendant; when planets in the Ascendant are friends; when the Ascendant rulers receive one another.

He takes this a little further when dealing with the ruler of the Ascendant: when the same planet rules both Ascendants; when either is received by sign or exaltation; when they are in conjunction, sextile or trine. There is more detail, but this is a good place to begin.

We will look at four nativities¹⁰: A, B, C and D, all are known to each other and have friendships of various degrees of closeness. A and B have been friends for many years and are reasonably close. The other friendships have been in place for a shorter period, but still of some years. B and C are very friendly, as are C and D. A and B are intolerant of D, but not to the point of dislike.

⁹ These comparisons derive from the nativities of a woman and some of her friends.

¹⁰ Shown at the end of this paper.

So, although each would call the others friends, there are various levels of friendship and closeness, but none would do harm to the other. We should, therefore, find some of the rules of friendship in all of these charts.

The following results were found:

	Rising Sign	Planets in Asc.	Other Connections
Friend A	Libra	Moon	Moon trine B: Saturn Moon exalted in B: Asc.
Friend B	Taurus	Saturn	Venus exalted in C: Asc. Moon conjunct C: Moon Jupiter conjunct C: Moon Saturn and Mercury are friends
Friend C	Pisces	Mercury, Venus, Sun	Asc. ruler conjunct B: Asc. ruler Asc. ruler in B: Asc.
Friend D	Capricorn	Jupiter	

The table shows the stronger relationships of the two pairs as A and B, and C and D. The basic criteria of rising signs are met in three of the four cases, the extra connections adding reinforcement. These charts constitute no more than an illustration, but it is an effective illustration of how an apparently obscure set of planetary relationships function in practical terms.

It serves to demonstrate how fruitful a close examination of *Christian Astrology* can be and how tightly interwoven are the planetary natures and relationships. The proper understanding of these is the key to successful chart judgement.





